

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

<http://las.gmu.edu>

Name and description of the field:

Latin American Studies Majors at George Mason explore one of the most fascinating regions of the world in all its complexity. They study an extremely broad range of topics, such as political violence, modernist poetry, the Cuban Revolution, Chicano folk art, Mexican murals, Afro-Caribbean dance, peasant communities, and economic development. Yet the major also allows them to synthesize their knowledge. They emerge with a highly marketable expertise in a vital region as well as with impressive reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Special skills or abilities needed to succeed in this major:

- Writing skills and oral communication abilities
- Analytical skills
- Creativity
- Basic Competence in Spanish or Portuguese

Employment Possibilities:

We aim to prepare students contemplating careers in a wide variety of fields that involve a strong knowledge of the region of Latin America. Competence in Spanish or Portuguese combined with an expertise in this important region will make Latin American Studies majors attractive to a range of prospective employers. Graduates will be particularly well-suited for employment by companies that do business in Latin America. Other possible careers include social work, international education, and journalism, as well as work in the public sector or in non-governmental organizations including think tanks, policy advocacy groups, human rights organizations, and environmental groups. And, of course, Latin American Studies will provide an excellent background for those wishing to pursue graduate study across the social sciences and humanities.

Practical experience:

The Latin American Studies program is committed to helping our students secure exciting and rewarding internships. Numerous foundations, non-governmental organizations, federal agencies, businesses, international organizations, and cultural institutions focused on Latin America have headquarters in Washington DC and Northern Virginia. Examples include the Organization of American States, the National Security Archive, the Washington Office on Latin America, the Inter-American Foundation, the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Teatro de la Luna, and the Inter-American Dialogue. An internship with any of these institutions is the perfect complement to a Latin American Studies major, allowing the student to gain valuable hands-on experience.

Minor in Latin American Studies:

Students who minor in Latin American Studies take eighteen credits in upper-division courses from at least three different departments. The minor enables them to develop an important regional expertise and to improve their writing and analytical skills. Students find that combining a minor in Latin American Studies with a major in another discipline makes them particularly attractive to both employers and graduate schools.

Contact Information:

Students should contact the Director of Latin American Studies for more information about the LAS major:

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